

ACTIVITIES OF MEMBER CLUBS

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Each club in the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs was asked to list the club's accomplishments during the last ten years. The response was prompt with all except four clubs replying. We are grateful to these 25 clubs for their excellent cooperation.

This article very appropriately begins with a quotation from the questionnaire returned by Reginald W. Hartwell, president of the Burroughs-Audubon Nature Club. "The Burroughs-Audubon Nature Club is 47 years old as it salutes and congratulates THE KINGBIRD on 10 years of valuable contributions to New York State ornithology. This venerable group, moreover, lays claim to the title of 'grandfather of THE KINGBIRD' since Allan Klonick, THE KINGBIRD's first editor, underwent much of his first natural history indoctrination as a Burroughs Audubon Junior member."

Since certain activities are common to most of the clubs — monthly or semi-monthly evening programs; field trips; participation in Christmas count, Big Day, Waterfowl count; keeping bird records and contributing to the Regional Reports in THE KINGBIRD; publishing a club bulletin and calendar of events — this article will deal with activities other than these.

Sanctuaries

Twelve clubs have acquired ownership or management of a sanctuary or wild-life refuge during the last ten years. They are: Alan Devoe Bird Club (only 3 years old), Buffalo Audubon Society (2 refuges), Burroughs-Audubon Nature Club, Genesee Ornithological Society (now working toward a second sanctuary), Keuka Park Conservation Club, Lyman Langdon Audubon Society, Naturalist Club of the Triple Cities, Rockland Audubon Society, Saw Mill River Audubon Society and Scarsdale Audubon Society. The Greene County Bird Club organized last year by Elizabeth Feldhausen, a past Recording Secretary of our Federation, is working to save an excellent marsh as a sanctuary.

Conservation

Buffalo Audubon Society, through membership in Federation of Erie Sportsmen's Club and Conservation Forum of New York State, keeps posted and takes action to help save our Forest Preserve, hawks and owls. The Ralph T. Waterman group supports Nature Conservancy programs in their county. Presenting books on conservation to the public library is an annual project of the Sassafra Bird Club. This club also gives support to State and National conservation organizations. The Brooklyn Bird Club conducted special conservation projects.

In the Education Field

The Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club and four Audubon Societies, Lyman-Langdon, Rockland, Saw Mill River and Scarsdale reported they provide nature education programs in the schools. Lyman-Langdon believes its greatest service to the community has been the children's education program.

Through field trips to a wide variety of habitats, boys and girls between ages 6 and 12 gain first hand knowledge of natural history and conservation. To keep leadership in proper balance with the ever-increasing number of participating children, scholarships to nature study workshops have been offered each year to adults interested in assisting with this program.

Saw Mill River's education committee organized many Junior Audubon Clubs in schools and Scarsdale carries on an extensive school program. Rockland's education committee reached directly 850 children and 400 adults this past year in addition to providing nature exhibits in schools, libraries and banks, and conducting nature contests for school children.

The Sullivan County Audubon Society sent four boys to conservation camps. The Sassafras Bird Club and the Onondaga, Rockland, Saw Mill River (4 to 6 each year) and Scarsdale (3 yearly) Audubon Societies provide annual scholarships to Audubon camps. These are awarded to teachers, leaders of youth groups and camp counselors.

The Naturalist Club of the Triple Cities offers bird identification classes for beginners each Saturday during migration season. Scarsdale and Sullivan County Audubon Societies teach Adult Education courses in bird identification.

The Cayuga Bird Club in cooperation with the Laboratory of Ornithology holds Saturday morning field trips for the general public each May and their evening Seminars throughout the school year are open to the public. A weekly radio program "Know Your Birds" is broadcast. The Keuka Park Conservation Club presents, free of charge to the public, outstanding programs on all phases of conservation and wildlife. Another means of disseminating nature and conservation information to the public is through a column in the local newspaper. The Onondaga Audubon Society publishes nature news in a Sunday column and the Rockland Audubon Society has a weekly "Woods and Fields" newspaper column.

Clubs that reported bringing the educational Audubon Screen Tours to their community are: Naturalist Club of the Triple Cities, North Country Bird Club, Schenectady Bird Club, and the Jamestown, Onondaga and Rockland Audubon Societies. The Onondaga report states "Our increasingly financially successful sponsorship of Audubon Screen Tours has helped to interest more people in birds and conservation, and has been the means of providing funds for several scholarships to Audubon Camps for elementary school teachers.

Publications

Four clubs issued publications during the last ten years. Brooklyn Bird Club published "Birds of Prospect Park (Kings County, N. Y. 1950); "Partial List of Vascular Plants of Jamaica Bay"; assisted with the Carleton revision of "Birds of Central and Prospect Parks" 1958; and have three more booklets being readied for the printer. The John Burroughs Natural History Club published a check list of "The Birds of Ulster County" and a check list of trees is in the hands of the printer. The North Country Bird Club published a check list of birds for the region. In 1959 the Rockland Audu-

bon Society published a revision of its 1949 "Birds of Rockland County and the Hudson Highlands." A complimentary copy of this booklet was sent to each member club in the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs.

Other Activities

One of our newest clubs, Tioga Birdwatchers Club, embarked on a program to increase the bluebird population. This group reported the successful nesting in new localities and rearing of young of five pairs of bluebirds. The Sullivan County Audubon Society erected wood duck houses, had the village board pass an ordinance making Monticello a bird sanctuary, introduced in the schools a program of bird feeding, operated an Audubon booth at the local fair, had numerous window displays, and had the prize winning float (with a conservation theme) in the Hallowe'en parade. The Rockland group maintains for members a rental library of natural history books.

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